## Claims

1. A coin acceptor comprising a coin sensing station, a coin rundown path extending through the sensing station, the path including a coin guiding surface on which a major face of the coin lies in sliding engagement during its passage along the path through the sensing station, wherein the path is curved such that the said face of the coin is urged by centripetal force against the coin guiding surface as it moves along the path.

2. A coin acceptor according to claim 1 wherein the coin is urged by centripetal force against the coin guiding surface as it moves through the sensing station.

3. A coin acceptor according to any preceding claim comprising a body including the coin guiding surface, and a cover mounted on the body, wherein the coin path extends between said surface and the cover.

4. A coin acceptor according to claim 3 wherein the cover is fixedly mounted on the body, without a coin jam release mechanism.

5. A coin acceptor according to any preceding claim including a coin inlet opening and a curved inlet surface for guiding a coin inserted in the inlet to a particular region of the coin guiding surface.

6. A coin acceptor according to any preceding claim including wherein the coin guiding surface is configured to relieve a pressure differential between the major face of the coin and the coin guiding surface.

7. A coin acceptor comprising a coin sensing station, a coin rundown path extending through the sensing station, and sensor coils at the coin sensing station, one of said coils comprising an elongate winding extending longitudinally along the coin rundown path.

8. A coin acceptor according to claim 7 wherein the elongate coil is wound on an elongate former which is longer than it is wide.

9. A coin acceptor according to claim 8 wherein the elongate coil is longer than the maximum diameter of coins to be accepted thereby.

10. A coin acceptor according to claim 7, 8 or 9 including at least one coil of circular cross section at the sensing station.

11. A coin acceptor according to claim 10 wherein the circular coil has a diameter smaller than the minimum diameter of coins to be accepted thereby.

12. A coin acceptor according to any one of claims 7 to 11 including processing circuitry coupled to the elongate coil to derive therefrom a coin parameter signal as a function of coin diameter.

13. A coin acceptor comprising a coin sensing station, a coin rundown path extending through the sensing station, the path including a curved coin guiding surface on which a major face of the coin lies in sliding engagement during its passage along the path through the sensing station, and a side wall opposite to the coin guiding surface, said coin rundown path extending between the coin guiding surface and the sidewall, wherein said side wall is fixedly mounted relative to the curved coin guiding surface.

14. A coin acceptor comprising a coin sensing station, a coin rundown path extending through the sensing station, the path including a curved coin guiding surface on which a major face of the coin lies in sliding engagement during its passage along the path through the sensing station, and means to relieve a pressure differential between the major face of the coin and the coin guiding surface to inhibit coins sticking to the coin guiding surface.

15. A coin acceptor according to claim 14 including pressure relief holes through the coin guiding surface.